requested. A Petition for Extension of Time and the appropriate fees are being filed concurrently.

Please amend the application as follows:

<u>In the Claims</u>

Please amend Claim 15.

15.   (Amended) The computer program product of Claim 14 further comprises program code that:

        ceases operation of the network cluster if no node has access to the shareable storage device.

Amendments to the claims are indicated in the attached "Marked Up Version of Amendments" (pages i).

Please add new Claims 22-32.

22.   (New) The method of Claim 1 further comprising:

        always granting membership in the network cluster to a node when the node has access to the shareable storage device.

23.   (New) The system of Claim 4 wherein the manager mechanism always grants membership in the network cluster to the node exclusively based on the node having access to the storage device.

OID-1999-035-03

24.   (New) The computer program of Claim 5 further includes program code to:

    always grant membership in the network cluster to a node if the node has access to the shareable storage device.

25.   (New) A system for managing membership of nodes in a computer network cluster, the system comprising:

    a means for defining a shareable storage device to store data for a network; and

    a means for granting membership in a network cluster to a node if the node has access to the shareable storage device.

26.   (New) A system for managing membership of nodes in a computer network cluster, the system comprising:

    a means for defining a shareable storage device to store data for a network;

    a means for creating a message location on the shareable storage device; and

    a means for granting membership in a network cluster to a node if the node has access to the shareable storage device, using the message location.

27.   (New) A method for managing membership of nodes in a computer network cluster, the method comprising:

    defining a shareable storage device to store data for a computer network, the shareable storage device being accessible by each node in a computer network cluster; and

    monitoring node membership in the computer network cluster based on the accessibility of the shareable storage device to each node, including adding a node to the computer network cluster in response to the node obtaining access to the shareable storage device.

28.   (New) A method for managing membership of nodes in a computer network cluster, the method comprising:

defining a shareable storage device to store data for a computer network, the shareable storage device being accessible by each node in a computer network cluster; and

monitoring node membership in the computer network cluster based on the accessibility of the shareable storage device to each node, including removing a node from the computer network cluster in response to the node losing access to the shareable storage device.

29.   (New) A system for managing membership of nodes in a computer network cluster, the system comprising:

a network infrastructure for supporting a plurality of nodes in a computer network cluster;

a shareable storage device separated from the network infrastructure and interconnectable to the plurality of nodes;

a node interconnected with the shareable storage device; and

a manager mechanism to monitor node membership in the computer network cluster based on the accessibility of the shareable storage device to each node, including adding a node to the computer network cluster in response to the node obtaining access to the shareable storage device.

30.   (New) A system for managing membership of nodes in a computer network cluster, the system comprising:

a network infrastructure for supporting a plurality of nodes in a computer network cluster;

a shareable storage device separated from the network infrastructure and interconnectable to the plurality of nodes;

a node interconnected with the shareable storage device; and

a manager mechanism for monitoring node membership in the computer network cluster based on the accessibility of the shareable storage device to each node, including removing a node from the computer network cluster in response to the node losing access to the shareable storage device.

31.   (New) A system for managing membership of nodes in a computer network cluster, the system comprising:

a means for defining a shareable storage device to store data for a computer network, the shareable storage device being accessible by each node in a computer network cluster; and

a means for monitoring node membership in the computer network cluster based on the accessibility of the shareable storage device to each node, including adding a node to the computer network cluster in response to the node obtaining access to the shareable storage device.

32.   (New) A system for managing membership of nodes in a computer network cluster, the system comprising:

    a means for defining a shareable storage device to store data for a computer network, the shareable storage device being accessible by each node in a computer network cluster; and

    a means for monitoring node membership in the computer network cluster based on the accessibility of the shareable storage device to each node, including removing a node from the computer network cluster in response to the node losing access to the shareable storage device.